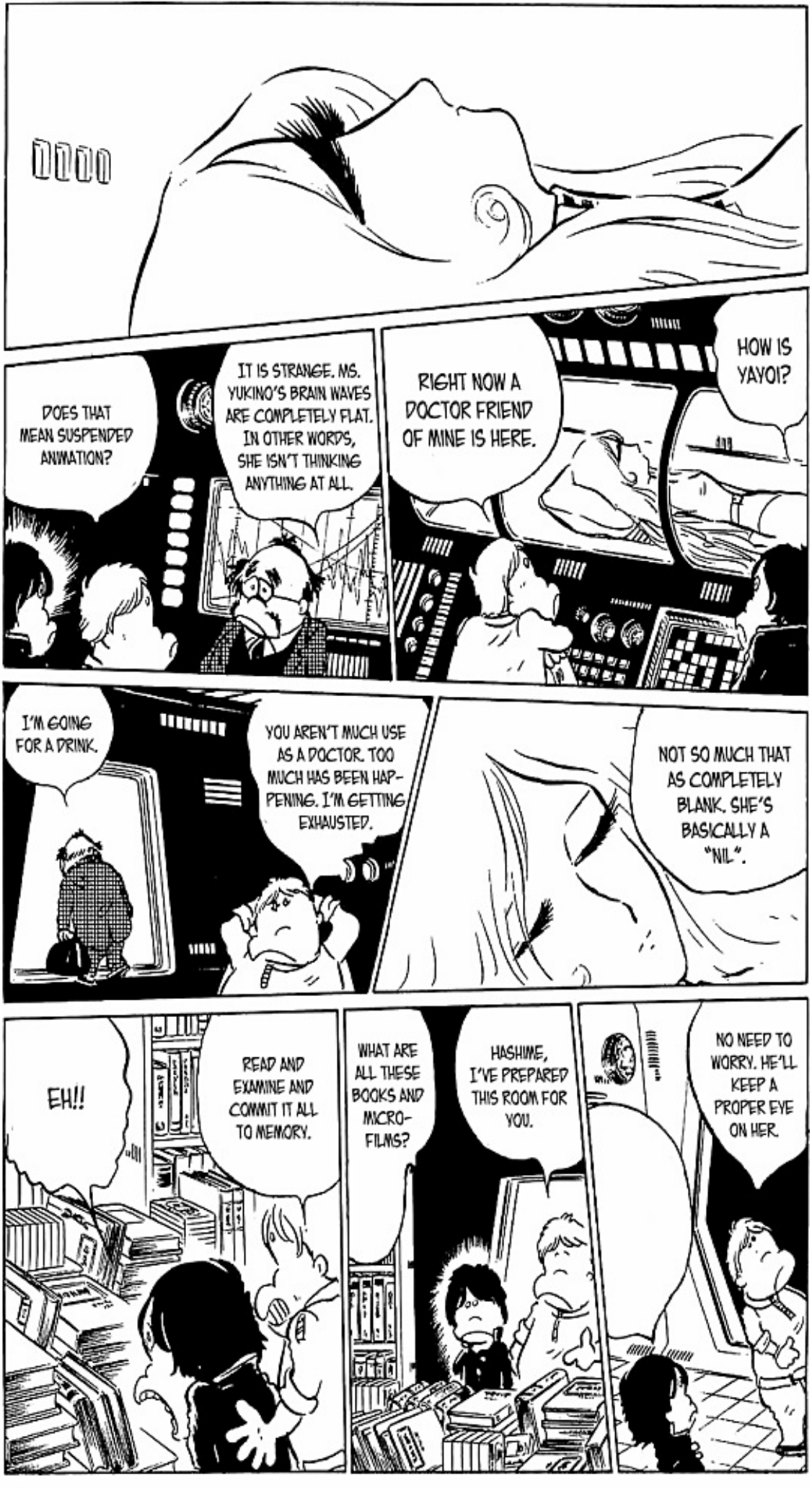
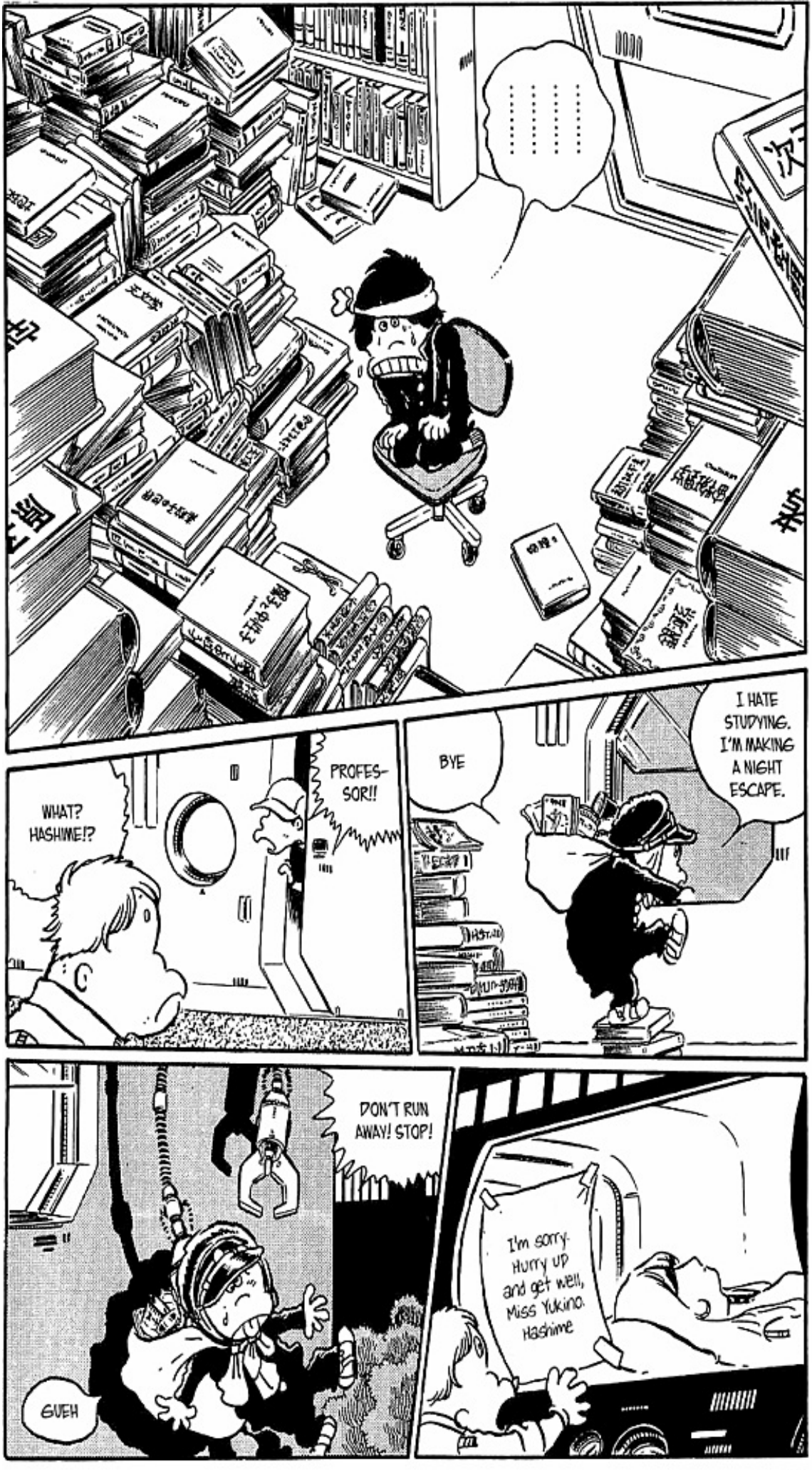
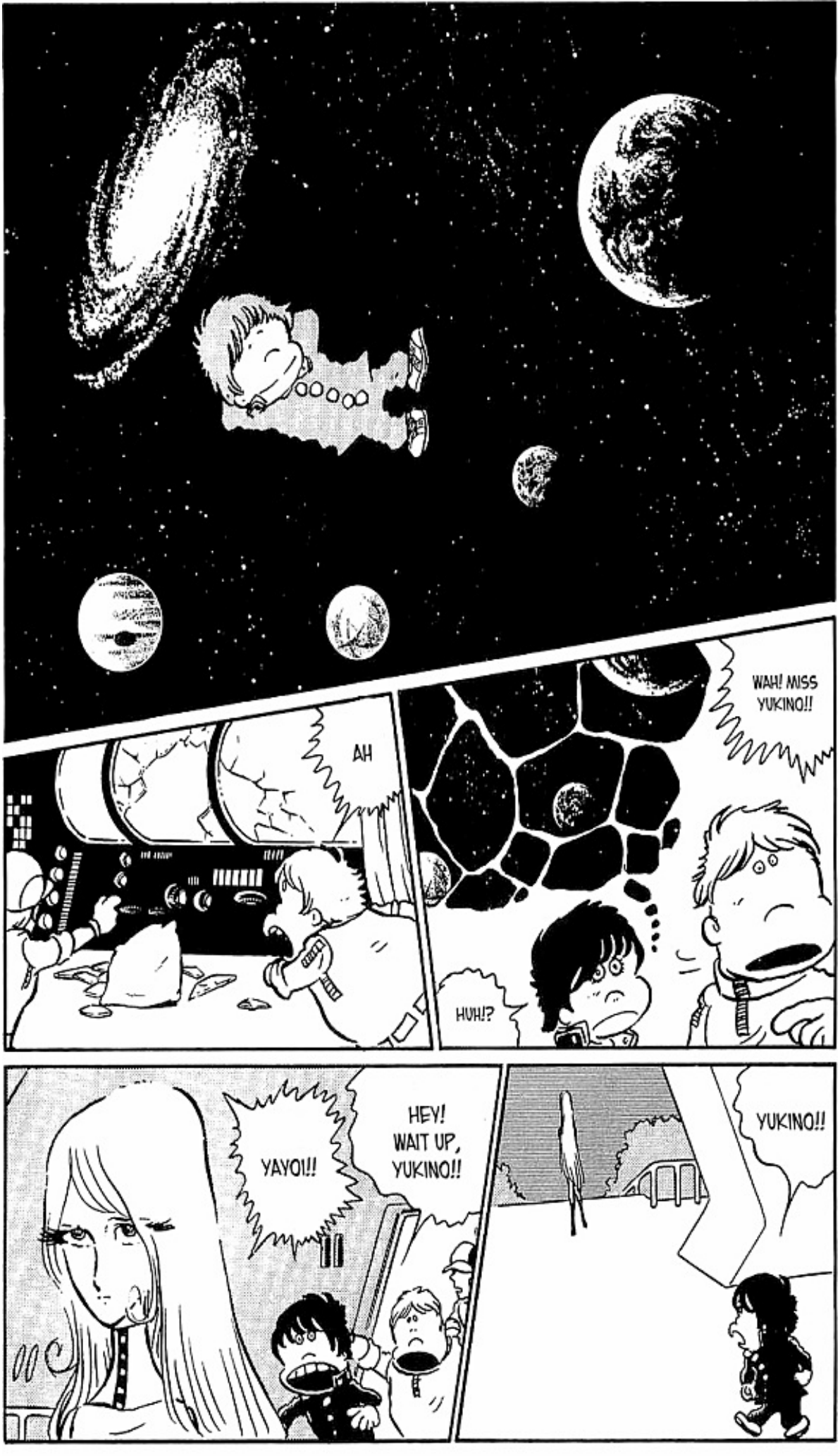
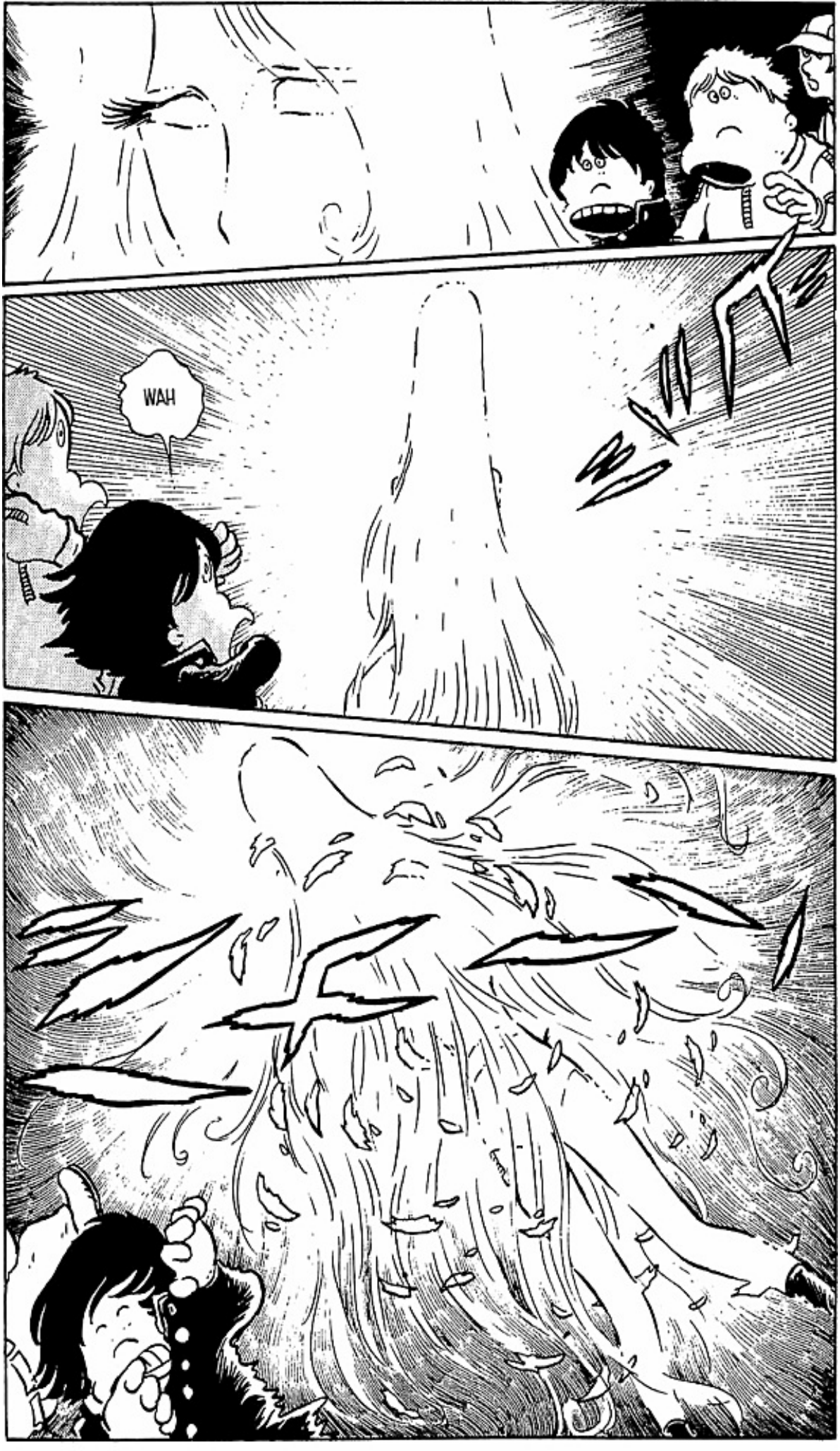
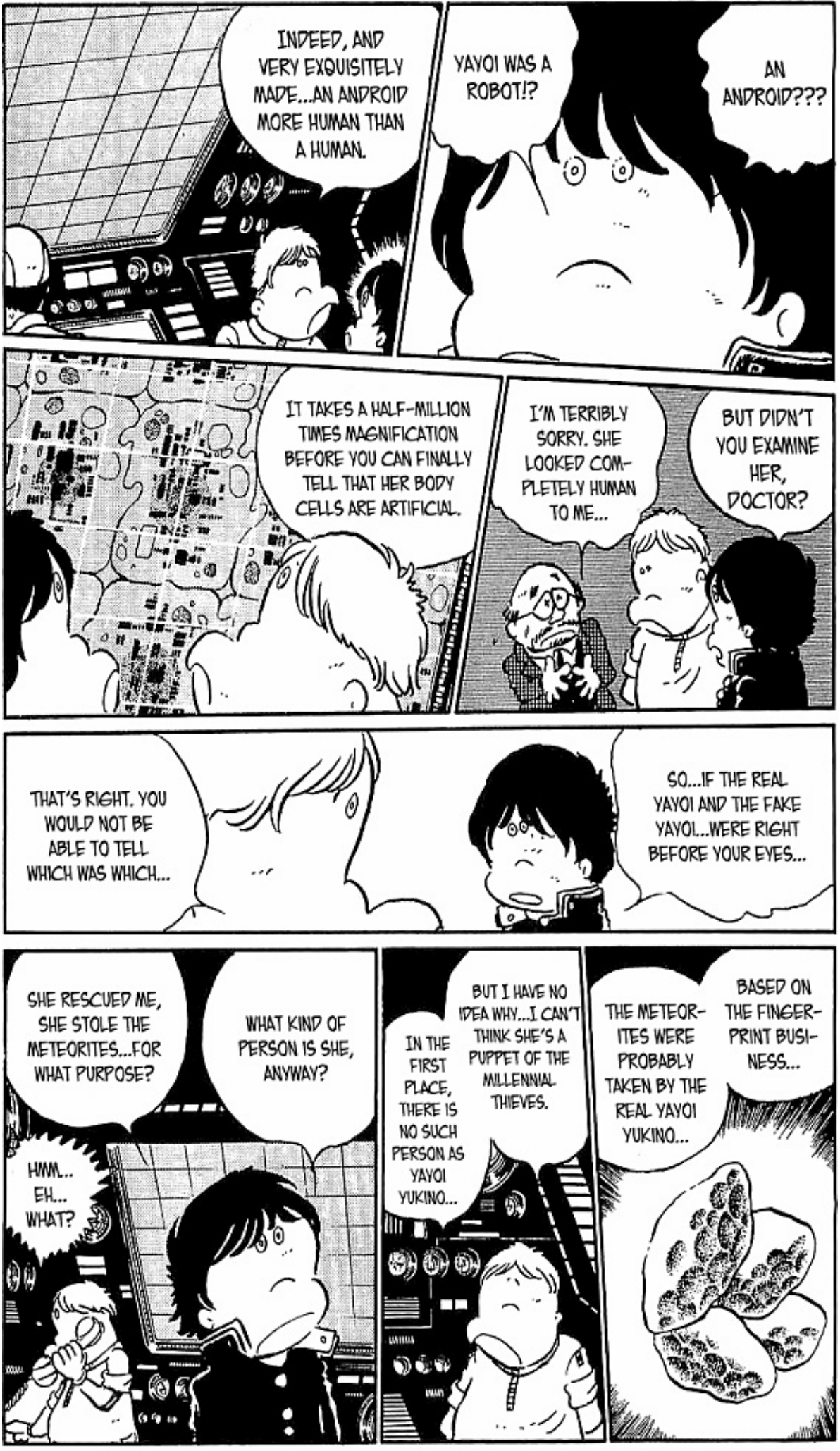

DOES THAT MEAN SUSPENDED ANIMATION?
IT IS STRANGE. MS. YUKINO'S BRAIN WAVES ARE COMPLETELY FLAT. IN OTHER WORDS, SHE ISN'T THINKING ANYTHING AT ALL.
RIGHT NOW A DOCTOR FRIEND OF MINE IS HERE.
HOW IS YAYOI?
I'M GOING FOR A DRINK.
YOU AREN'T MUCH USE AS A DOCTOR. TOO MUCH HAS BEEN HAPPENING. I'M GETTING EXHAUSTED.
NOT SO MUCH THAT AS COMPLETELY BLANK. SHE'S BASICALLY A "NIL".
EH!!
READ AND EXAMINE AND COMMIT IT ALL TO MEMORY.
WHAT ARE ALL THESE BOOKS AND MICRO-FILMS?
HASHIME, I'VE PREPARED THIS ROOM FOR YOU.
NO NEED TO WORRY. HE'LL KEEP A PROPER EYE ON HER.


.....
I HATE STUDYING. I'M MAKING A NIGHT ESCAPE.
BYE
PROFES-SOR!!
WHAT? HASHIME!?
DON'T RUN AWAY! STOP!
GUEH
I'm sorry. Hurry up and get well, Miss Yukino. Hashime

MENTAL ATTITUDE?
SORRY, SORRY. I WANT TO TEST YOUR MENTAL ATTITUDE.
EH? IT WAS JUST A JOKE TO TEST ME?
D
CREW MEMBER OF A SPACE SHIP?
IF YOU ARE GOING TO BE AN OFFICIAL CREW MEMBER OF A SPACESHIP, YOU HAVE TO HAVE TO HAVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT EQUAL TO THOSE BOOKS.
SHE SAID THAT...?
COME TO THINK OF IT, YUKINO SAID SHE WOULD BECOME A STEWARDESS ON SOLAR SYSTEM SPACEWAYS.
THAT'S LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
BUT...TO RIDE IN A SPACESHIP EVEN JUST IN A DREAM...
BUT...TO RIDE IN A SPACESHIP EVEN JUST IN A DREAM...
SO IF YOU ARE SMART TOO, THERE'S NO PROBLEM.
I CAN'T DO IT OVERNIGHT.
OF COURSE I DO!! BUT EVERYONE WHO GOES ON A SPACESHIP IS REALLY SMART.
DON'T YOU WANT TO GO INTO SPACE, HASHIME?


AH
WAH! MISS YUKINO!!
HUH!?
YAYOI!!
HEY! WAIT UP, YUKINO!!
YUKINO!!


WAH


INDEED, AND VERY EXQUISITELY MADE...AN ANDROID MORE HUMAN THAN A HUMAN.
YAYOI WAS A ROBOT!?
AN ANDROID???
IT TAKES A HALF-MILLION TIMES MAGNIFICATION BEFORE YOU CAN FINALLY TELL THAT HER BODY CELLS ARE ARTIFICIAL.
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY. SHE LOOKED COMPLETELY HUMAN TO ME...
BUT DIDN'T YOU EXAMINE HER, DOCTOR?
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO TELL WHICH WAS WHICH...
SO...IF THE REAL YAYOI AND THE FAKE YAYOI...WERE RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES...
SHE RESCUED ME, SHE STOLE THE METEORITES...FOR WHAT PURPOSE?
WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS SHE, ANYWAY?
HMM... EH... WHAT?
IN THE FIRST PLACE, THERE IS NO SUCH PERSON AS YAYOI YUKINO...
BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHY...I CAN'T THINK SHE'S A PUPPET OF THE MILLENNIAL THIEVES.
THE METEORITES WERE PROBABLY TAKEN BY THE REAL YAYOI YUKINO...
BASED ON THE FINGERPRINT BUSINESS...

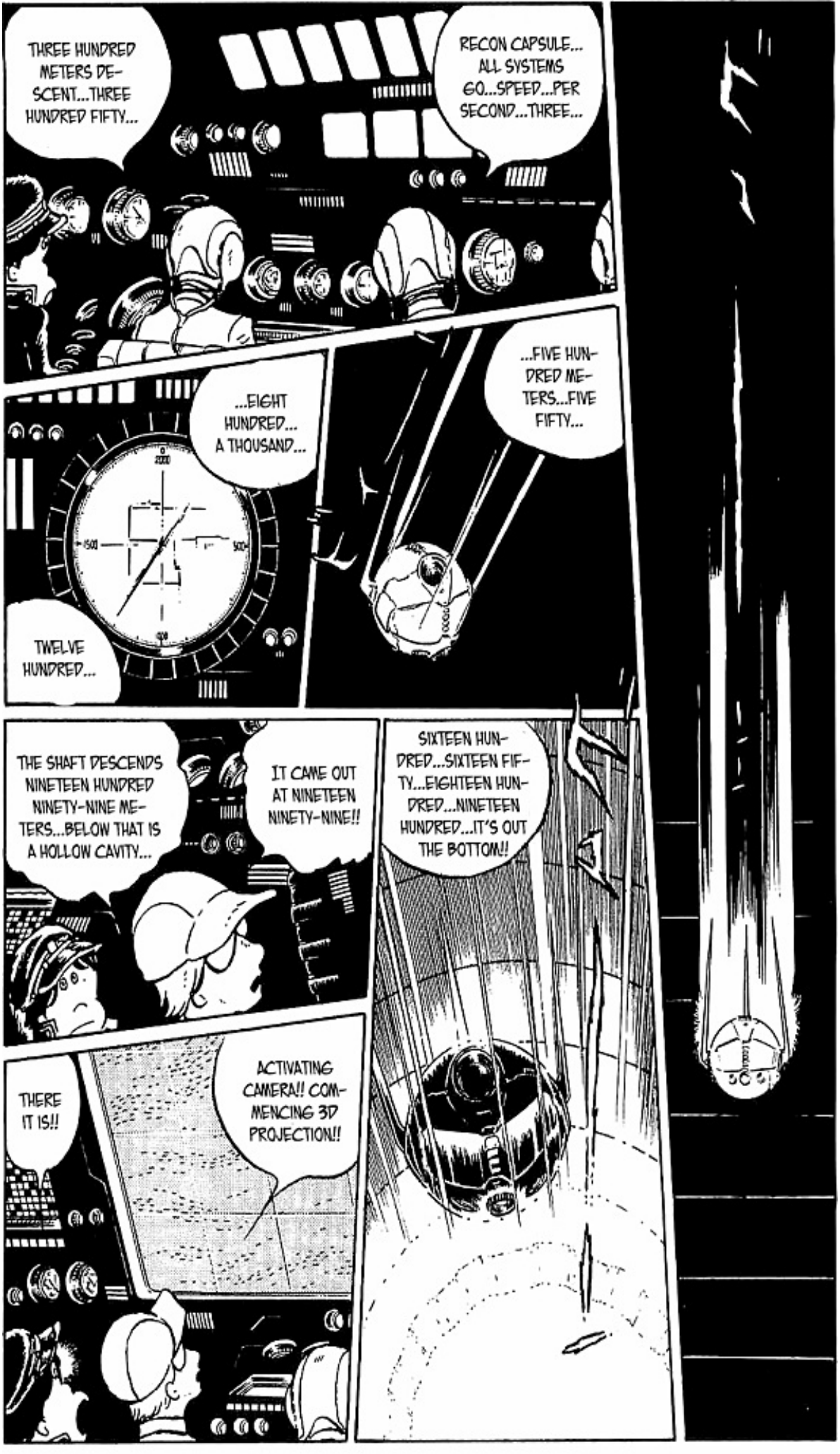
AND UNDERNEATH IS THREE HUNDRED METERS OF BEDROCK.
WEIRD? ISN'T THIS PLACE BUILT TO SOMERSAULT BELOW GROUND?
SOMETHING WEIRD UNDER THE OBSERVA-TORY?
PLEASE COME AT ONCE!!
THIS PLACE HAS THIRTY-TWO SUBTERRANEAN FLOORS...
WOAH. WE'RE GOING DOWN PRETTY FAST.
LET'S CHECK OUT THE BASE-MENT.
NOT EVEN A MOLE COULD DIG UNDER THERE.
LOOK THERE. THE ROTATING OBSER-VATORY TURNS INSIDE AN ENOR-MOUS HOLLOWED-OUT BOULDER.
GOODNESS! I HAD NO IDEA THERE WAS A SHAFT HERE. WHERE DOES IT GO!?
THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
THIS IS THE BOTTOM FLOOR...THERE'S NOTHING BELOW HERE BUT BED-ROCK...
B32

THE PROFESSOR ALWAYS HAS TO DO THIS KIND OF THING HIMSELF.
ALMOST ANYONE SHOULD BE GOING INSTEAD OF HIM...
I'M NOT SO SURE HE WILL.
HE SUCH A SCAT-TERBRAIN. I HOPE HE'LL BE OKAY.
IT'S AWFULLY BRIGHT...
OHH! THERE'S LIGHT BELOW. THE EXIT IS NEAR.
SOME-THING HAP-PENED!!
(SFX) UWAHHH
UNCLE! IF YOU FALL YOU WON'T SURVIVE. ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
WAIT FOR ME, HASHIME. I'M GONNA TAKE A RECON PHOTO!!

RAISE IT UP!! QUICKLY!!
UH-OH. MAYBE IT WAS CUT.
EH?
!?THERE'S NO WEIGHT ON THE BELT!
AH
AH
AH
PLAY IT BACK!! RIGHT AWAY!!
IT LOOKS LIKE THERE IS VIDEO ON THE PROFESSOR'S CAMERA
UNCLE...
UNCLE FELL!!
HOW ARE WE GONNA RESCUE HIM!?

SO THERE ARE MONSTROUS BEASTS DOWN THERE?
BITTEN OFF?
THIS LOOKS MORE LIKE IT WAS BITTEN OFF BY SOME KIND OF ANIMAL THAN BEING CUT!!
BUT IT LOOKS MORE LIKE MAYBE A SAFARI THE PROFESSOR TOOK IN AFRICA OR SOMETHING...
IT CAME OUT ALRIGHT...
DID IT COME OUT OKAY!?
STARTING VIDEO PLAYBACK.
EHH? THIS IS WHAT HE TOOK WHEN HE GOT UNDERGROUND!?
WHAT IS IT??

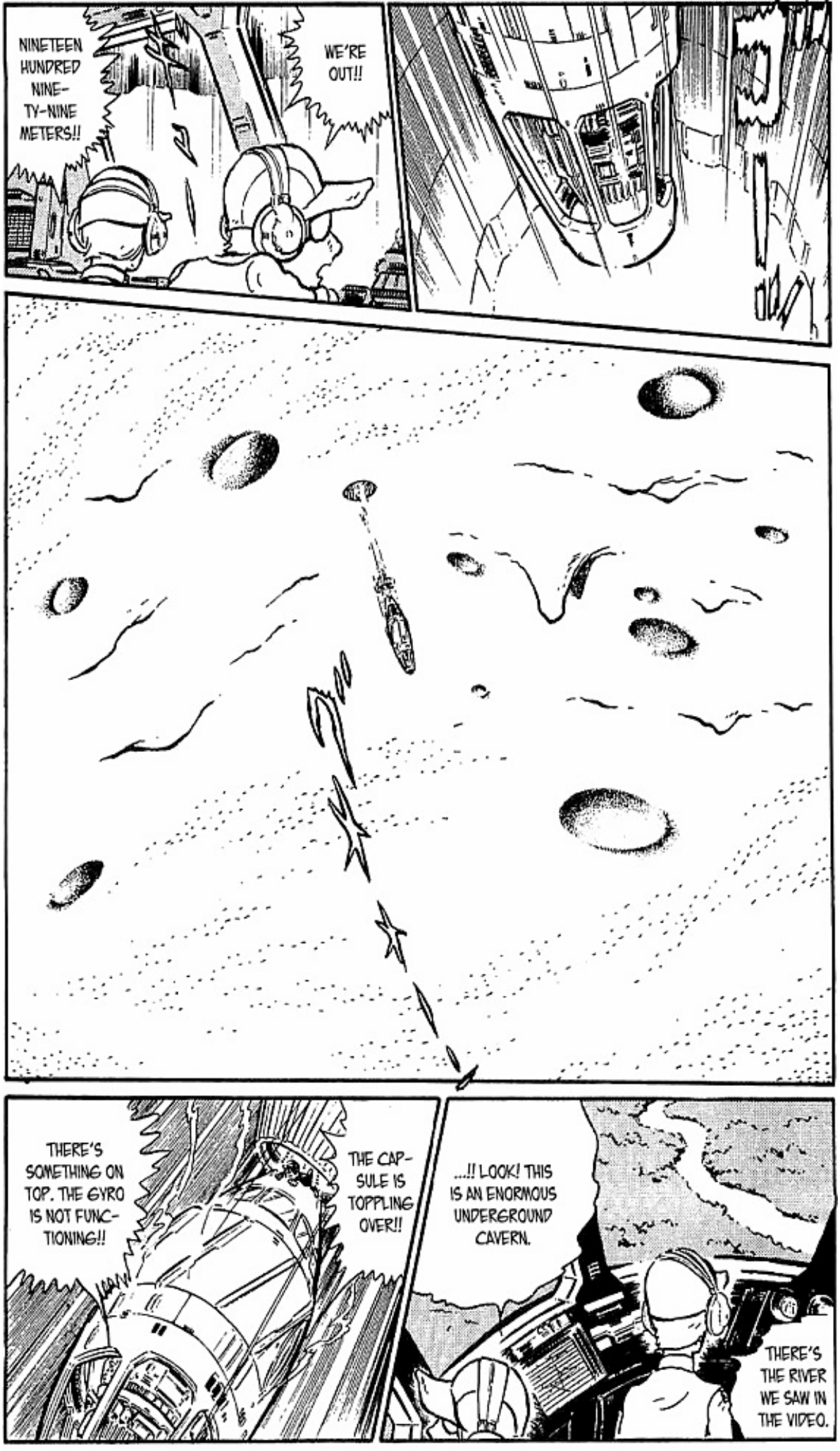
???
I'M LOWERING A CAMERA TO CHECK IT OUT.
IT'S RIDICULOUS!!
THAT'S SOME WEIRD SCENERY TO BE UNDER OUR FEET!!
WELL, THIS IS ONE OF THE WAYS OUR PROFESSOR IS "DIFFERENT".
THAT'S WHAT WE SHOULD HAVE DONE TO START WITH!!


THREE HUNDRED METERS DE-SCENT...THREE HUNDRED FIFTY...
RECON CAPSULE... ALL SYSTEMS GO...SPEED...PER SECOND...THREE...
...EIGHT HUNDRED... A THOUSAND...
...FIVE HUN-DRED ME-TERS...FIVE FIFTY...
TWELVE HUNDRED...
THE SHAFT DESCENDS NINETEEN HUNDRED NINETY-NINE ME-TERS...BELOW THAT IS A HOLLOW CAVITY...
IT CAME OUT AT NINETEEN NINETY-NINE!!
SIXTEEN HUN-DRED...SIXTEEN FIF-TY...EIGHTEEN HUN-DRED...NINETEEN HUNDRED...IT'S OUT THE BOTTOM!!
THERE IT IS!!
ACTIVATING CAMERA!! COM-MENCING 3D PROJECTION!!

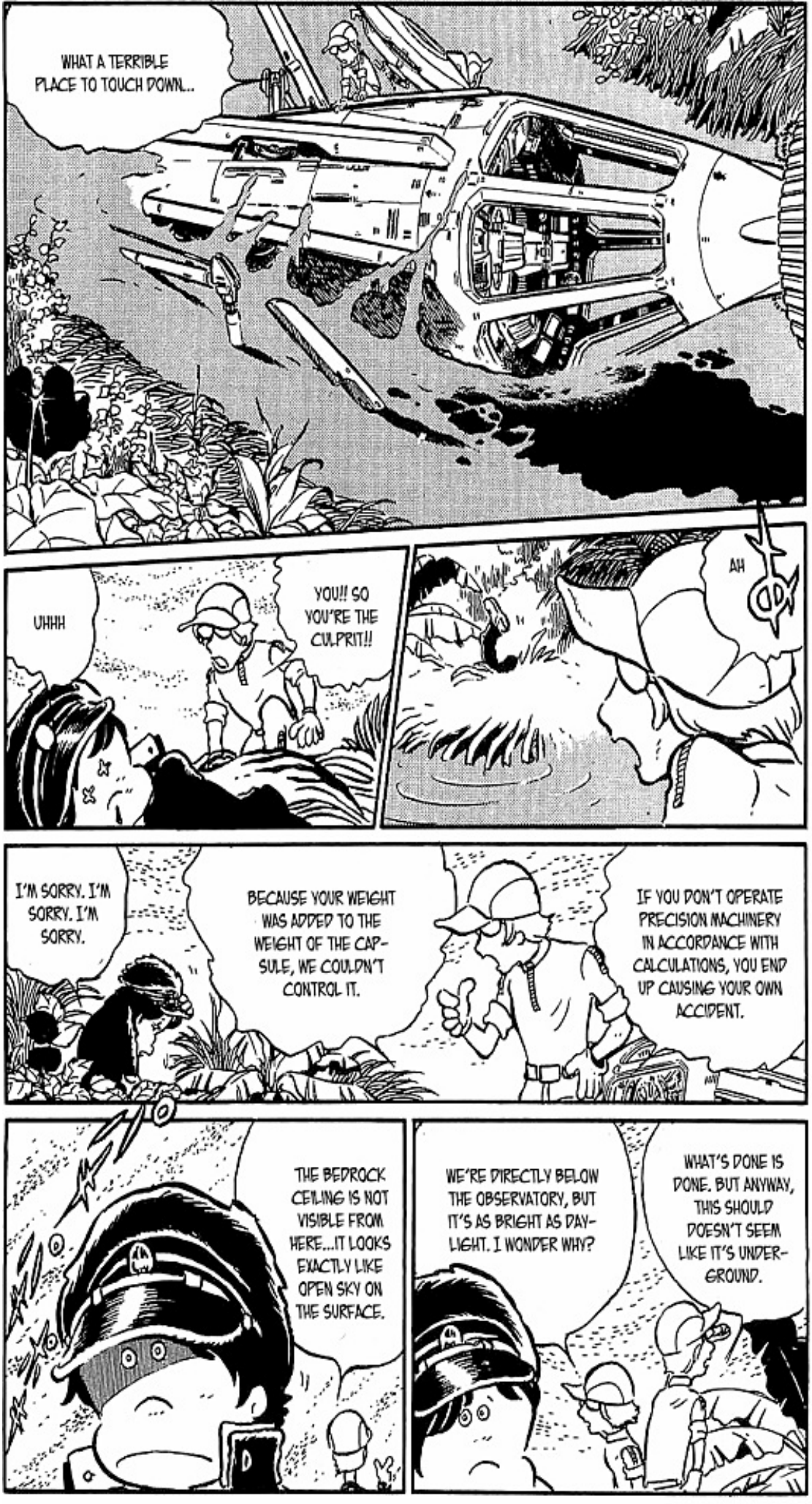
NO...THIS IS THE SAME. LOOK!
!!
THERE'S NOTHING THERE...I GUESS THAT TAPE WAS...
THE FIRST VIDEO WAS NO MISTAKE!! MY UNCLE FILMED THIS!!
NOW THE CAMERA IS SWEEPING OVER THE BOTTOM.
IT CERTAINLY LOOKS LIKE AN ENORMOUS JUNGLE!!
ROGER!!
BRING THE CAMERA UP LEVEL!!
THERE'S YAYOI!!
AH
EVEN THOUGH IT'S MORE THAN NINE-TEEN HUNDRED AN NINETY METERS DOWN...

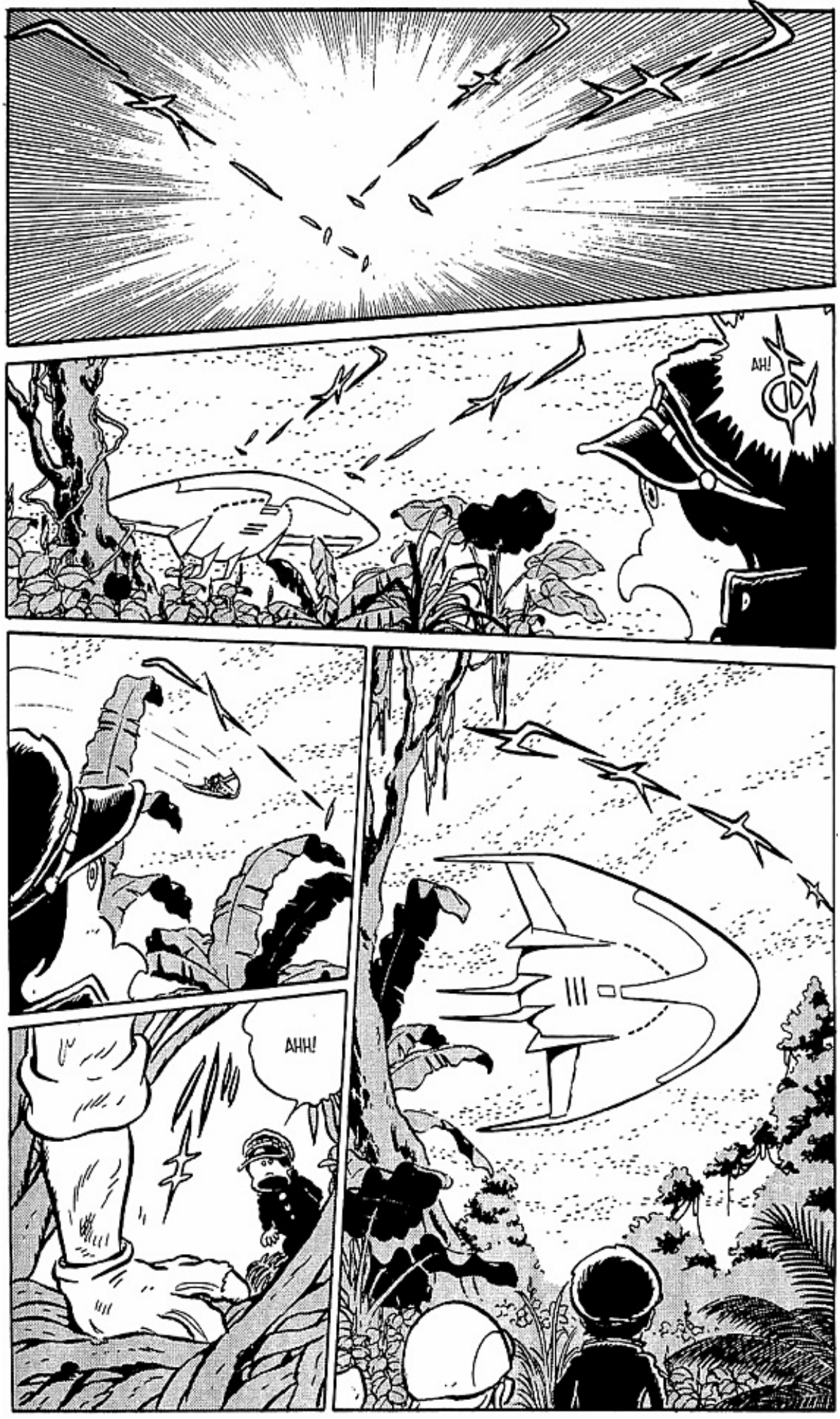
NO. THERE'S NO SIGN OF A HUMAN.
IT'S UNDERGROUND, SO OUGHT TO BE PITCH DARK. BUT IT'S AS LIGHT AS DAY.
IT WOULD NOT BE STRANGE IF THERE WERE HUMANS THERE.
...I'M SURE I SAW A HUMAN FIGURE JUST LIKE YAYOI...
NO CHILDREN ALLOWED.
CAN I GO TOO?
AND WE HAVE TO SEARCH FOR THE PROFESSOR...
WE NEED TO GO DOWN AND INVESTI-GATE.
WE'LL SEND A MESSAGE FROM UNDERGROUND, SO WAIT UP HERE AND LOOK OUT FOR IT.
.....
YES YOU ARE. AND A VERY FINE CHILD AT THAT.
I'M NOT...A CHILD...

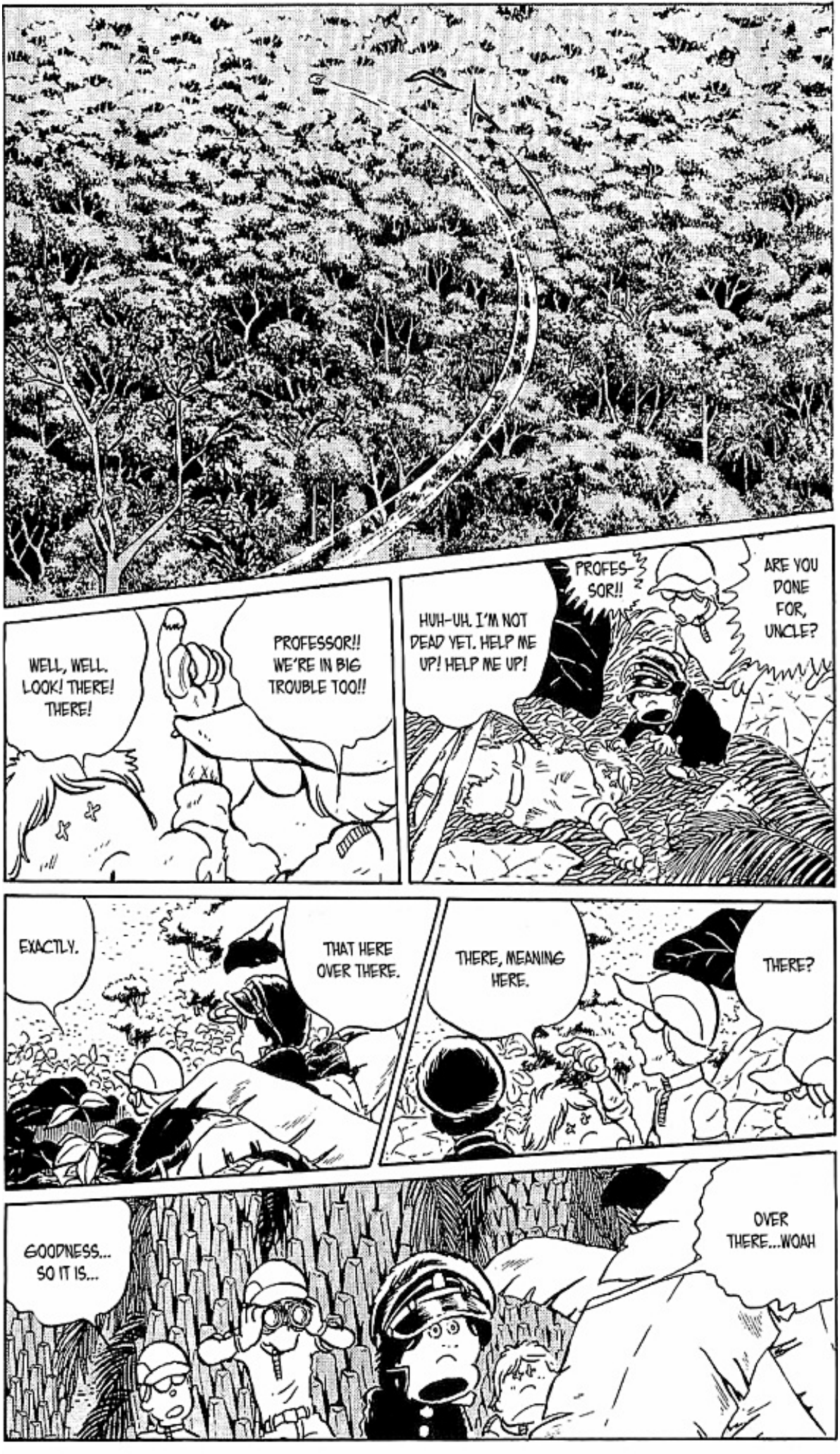
THREE HUNDRED METERS DESCENT... THREE FIFTY...FOUR HUNDRED...ALL SYSTEMS GO...
NOTHING OUT OF ORDER ON THE CAPSULE... SPEED PLUS 0.2.
WE HAVE THE CORRECT AMOUNT OF FUEL...AND THERE'S NOTHING EXTRA ON BOARD.
OUR DESCENT SPEED IS SLIGHT TOO FAST. IT'S VERY WEIRD.
ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE IN-CREASE...NO... THERE IS NO CHANGE.
UWAHH...MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN ON...
THE AIR PRES-SURE ISN'T INCREASING?


NINETEEN HUNDRED NINE-TY-NINE METERS!!
WE'RE OUT!!
THERE'S SOMETHING ON TOP. THE GYRO IS NOT FUNC-TIONING!!
THE CAP-SULE IS TOPPLING OVER!!
...!! LOOK! THIS IS AN ENORMOUS UNDERGROUND CAVERN.
THERE'S THE RIVER WE SAW IN THE VIDEO.

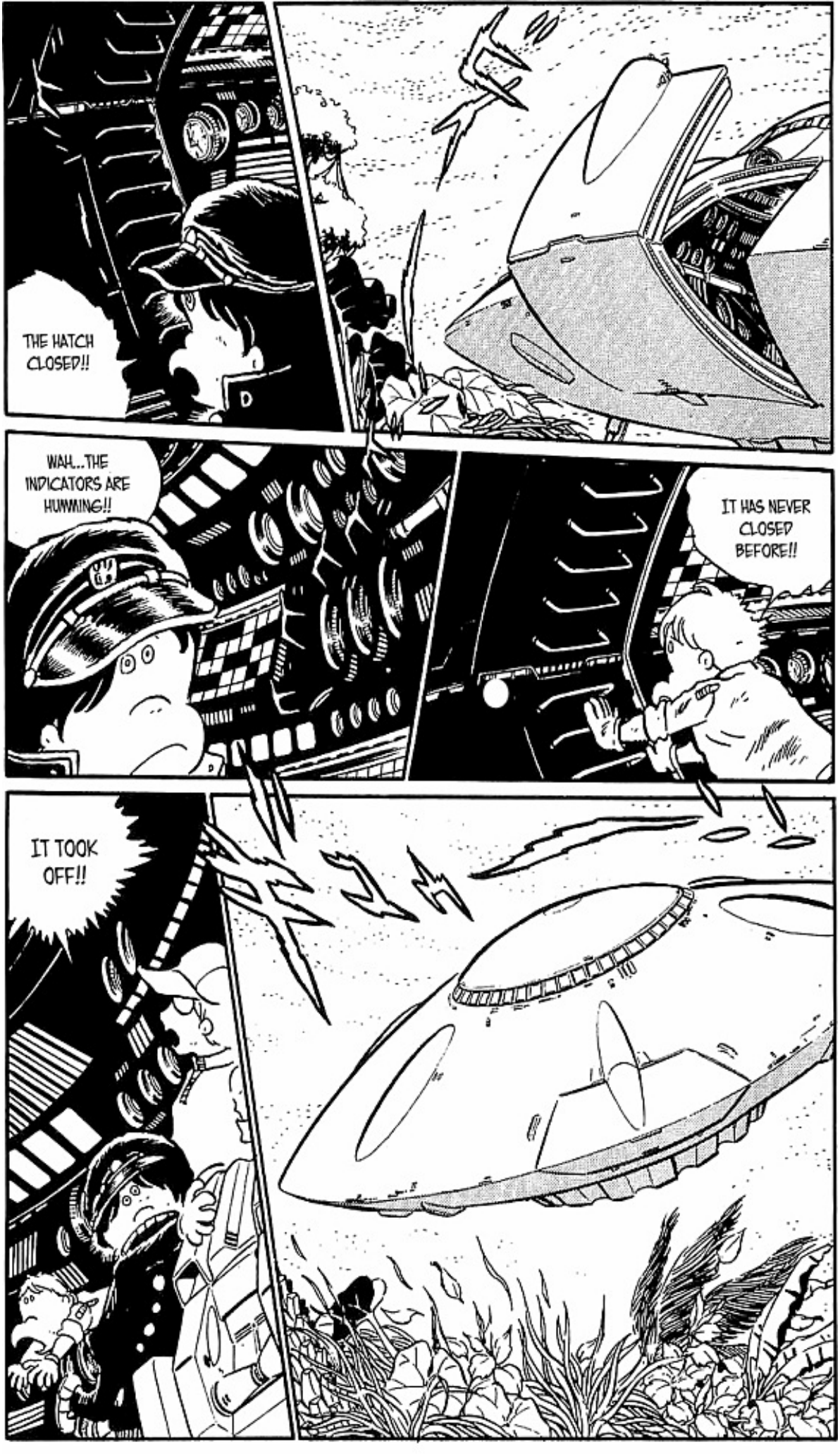
FIX THE BALANCE! TEN METERS BEFORE WE TOUCH DOWN.
NO GOOD. I CAN'T CONTROL IT!!
HELP ME.

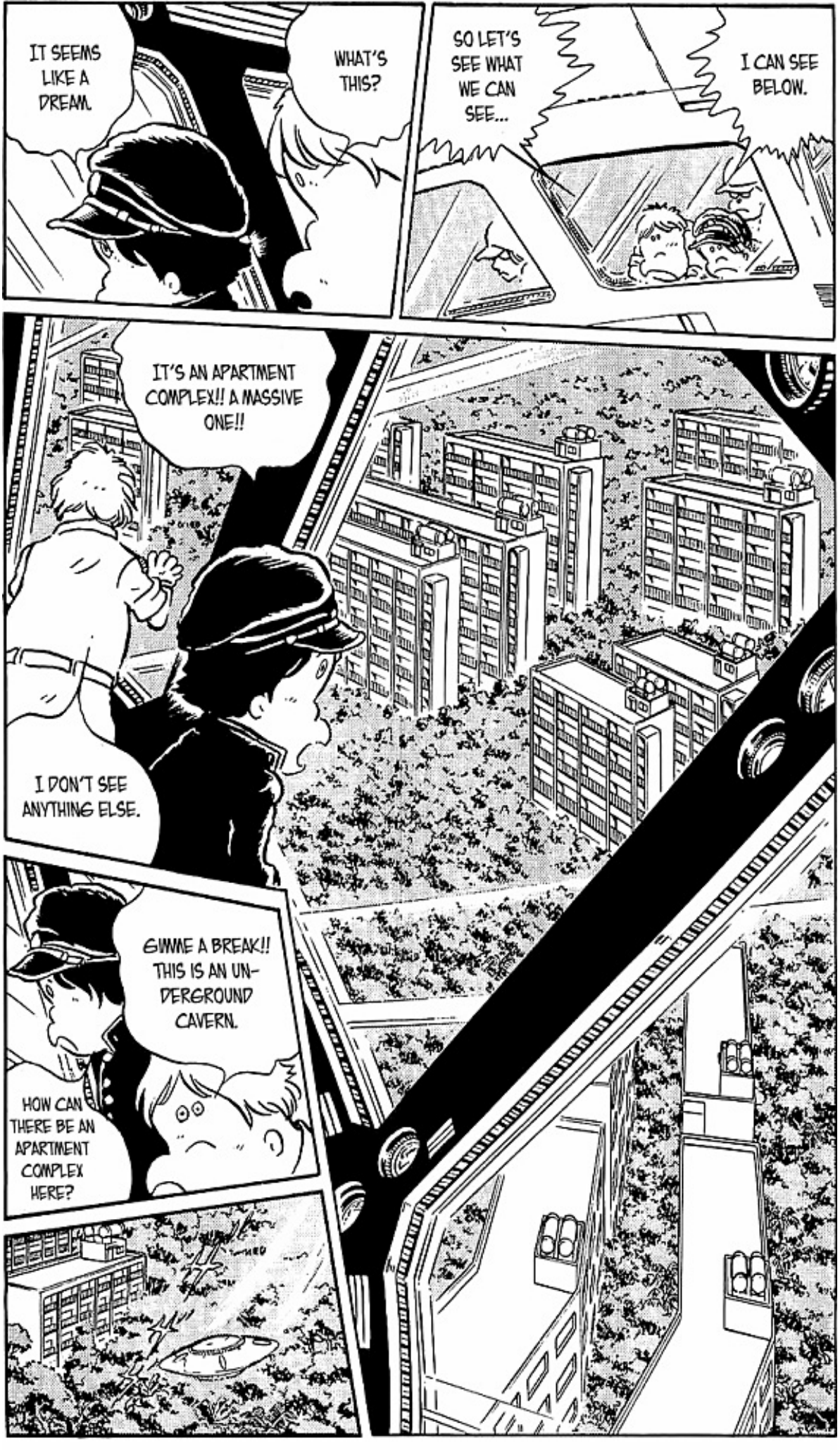

WHAT A TERRIBLE PLACE TO TOUCH DOWN...
UHHH
YOU!! SO YOU'RE THE CULPRIT!!
AH
I'M SORRY. I'M SORRY. I'M SORRY.
BECAUSE YOUR WEIGHT WAS ADDED TO THE WEIGHT OF THE CAPSULE, WE COULDN'T CONTROL IT.
IF YOU DON'T OPERATE PRECISION MACHINERY IN ACCORDANCE WITH CALCULATIONS, YOU END UP CAUSING YOUR OWN ACCIDENT.
THE BEDROCK CEILING IS NOT VISIBLE FROM HERE...IT LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE OPEN SKY ON THE SURFACE.
WE'RE DIRECTLY BELOW THE OBSERVATORY, BUT IT'S AS BRIGHT AS DAYLIGHT. I WONDER WHY?
WHAT'S DONE IS DONE. BUT ANYWAY, THIS SHOULD DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT'S UNDERGROUND.

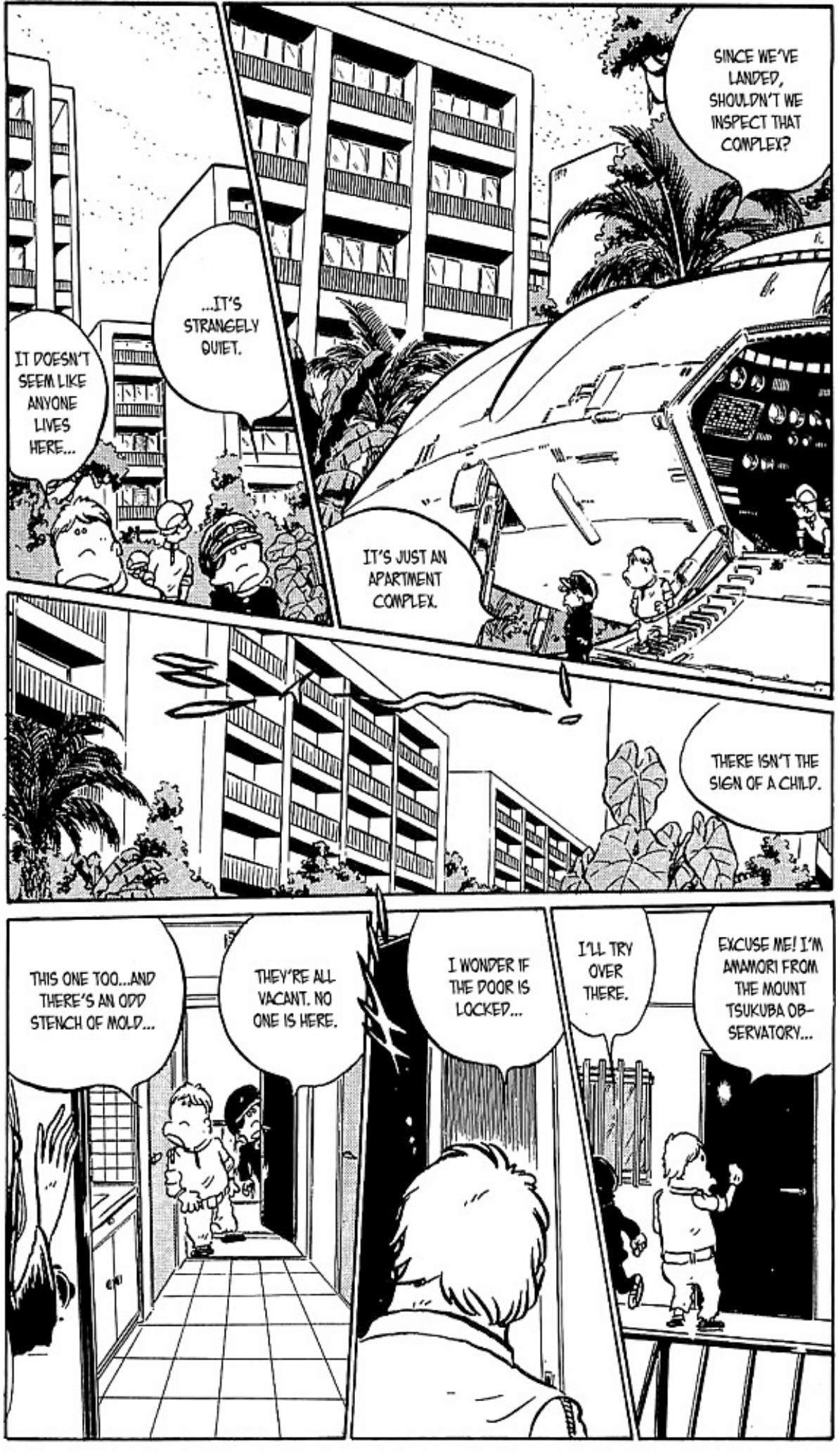

AH!
AHH!

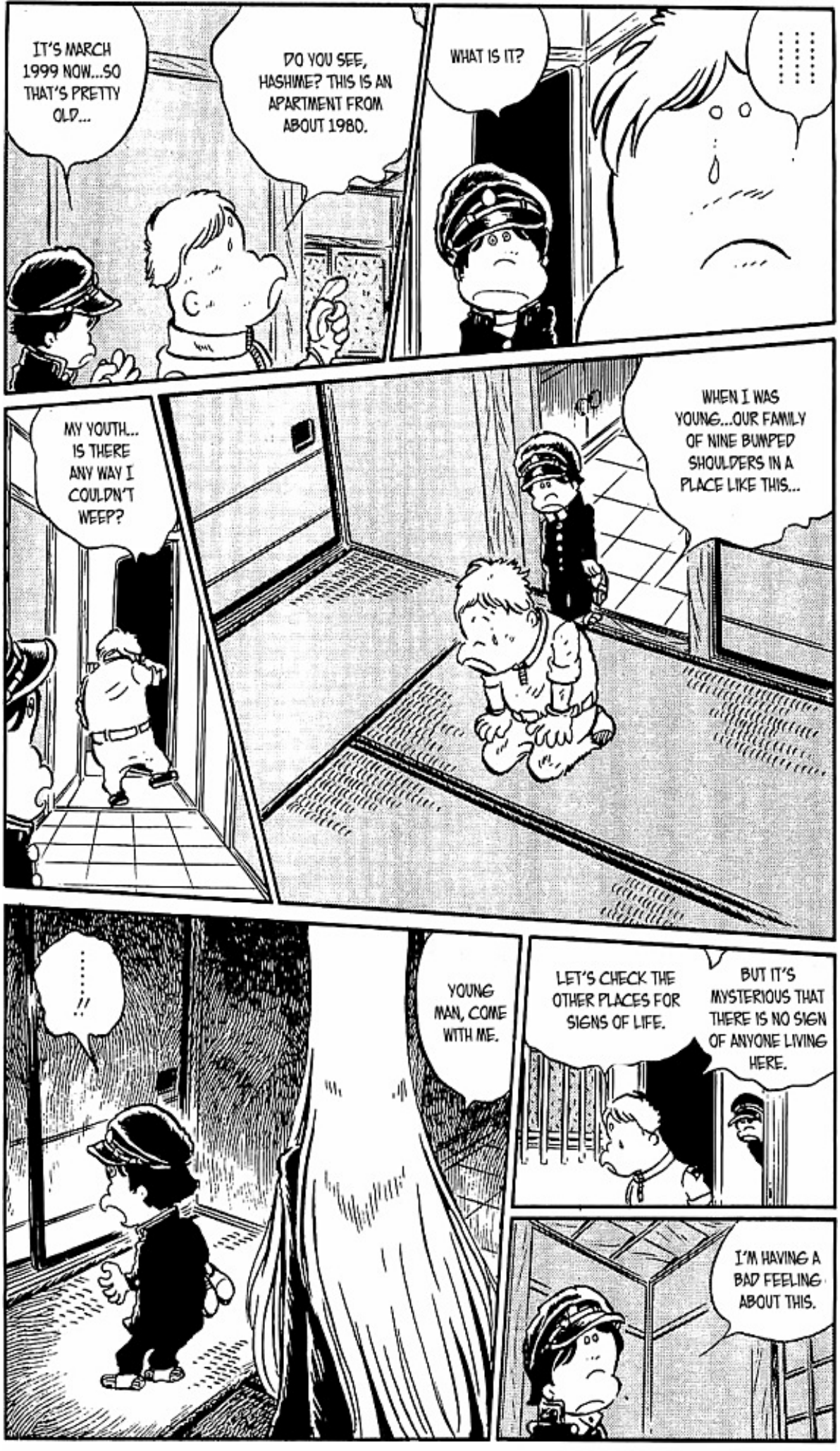

WELL, WELL. LOOK! THERE! THERE!
PROFESSOR!! WE'RE IN BIG TROUBLE TOO!!
HUH-UH. I'M NOT DEAD YET. HELP ME UP! HELP ME UP!
PROFES-SOR!!
ARE YOU DONE FOR, UNCLE?
EXACTLY.
THAT HERE OVER THERE.
THERE, MEANING HERE.
THERE?
GOODNESS... SO IT IS...
OVER THERE...WOAH

!!
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A SCARIER MONSTER. THOSE ARE JUST BIRDIES.
THEY'RE THE ONES WHO BIT OFF THE ROPE.
KWAAH
WHEN I CAME TO, I WAS STRETCHED OUT INSIDE HERE.
THERE'S NO SIGN OF ANY PEOPLE. IT SEEMS LIKE THE MACHINE IS ALIVE...
IS IT OKAY TO GO INSIDE?
IDIOT. IF THEY HAD BEEN MONSTERS, I'D HAVE BEEN EATEN TOO.

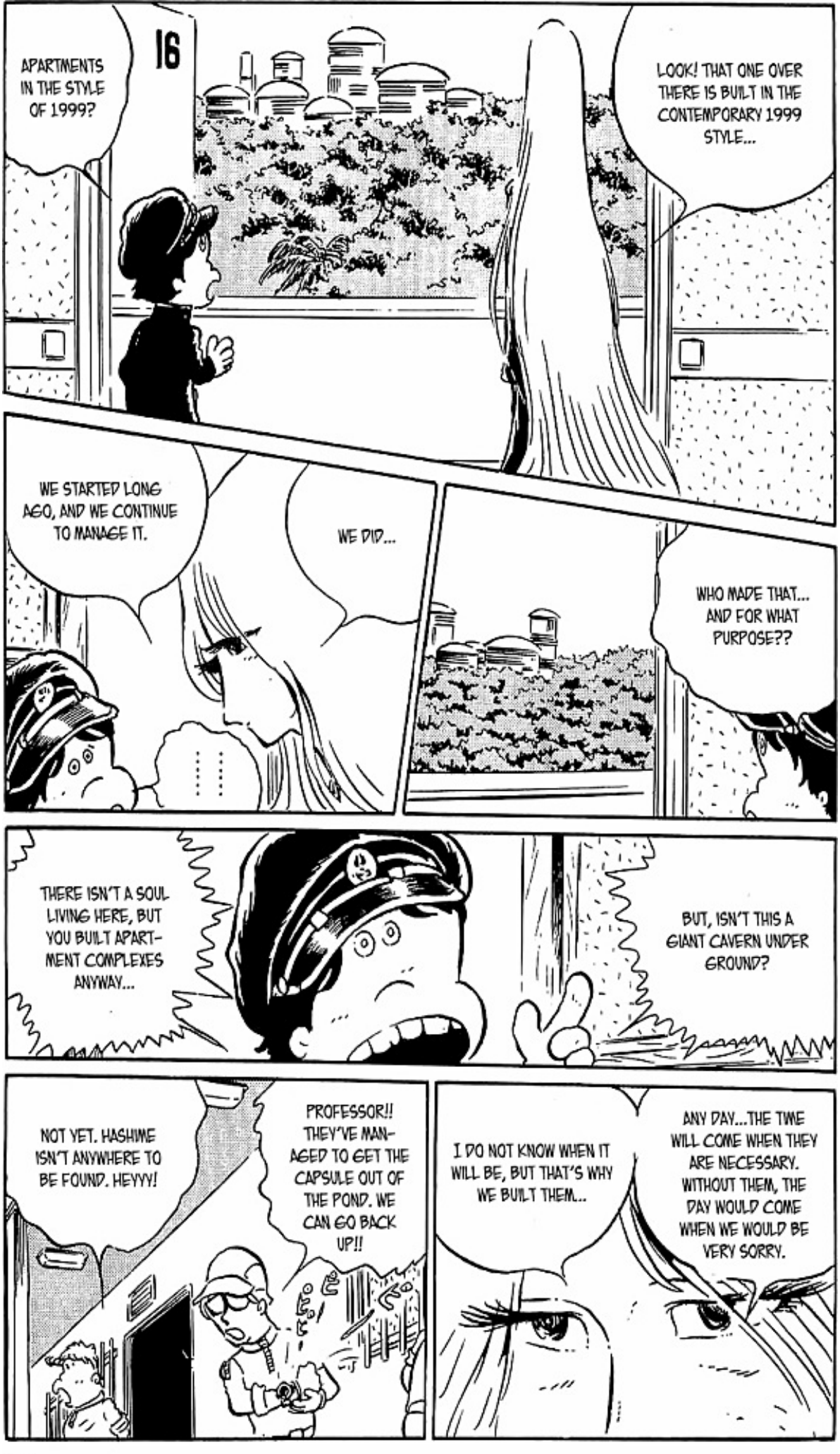

THE HATCH CLOSED!!
WAH...THE INDICATORS ARE HUMMING!!
IT HAS NEVER CLOSED BEFORE!!
IT TOOK OFF!!

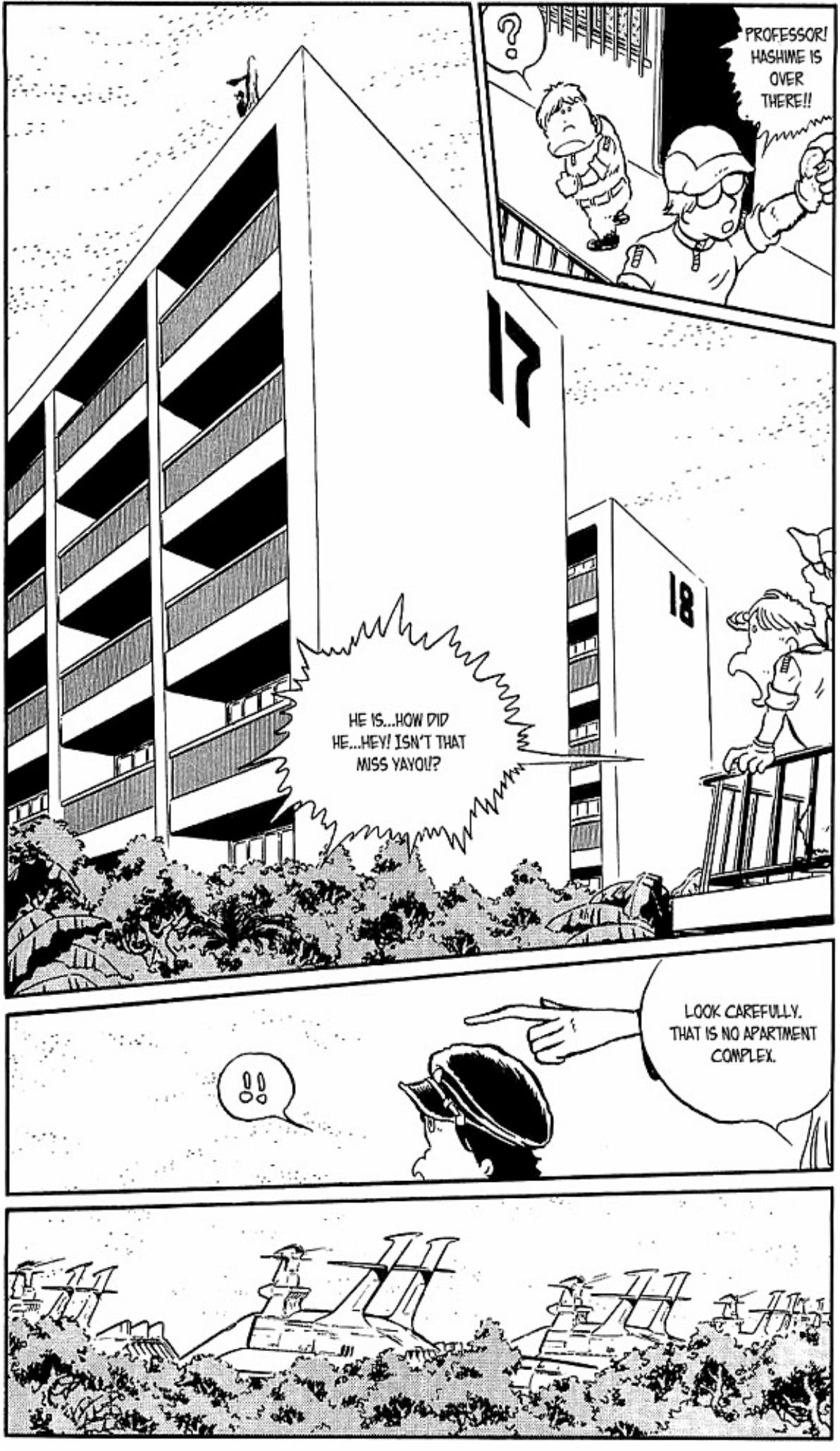

IT SEEMS LIKE A DREAM.
WHAT'S THIS?
SO LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN SEE...
I CAN SEE BELOW.
IT'S AN APARTMENT COMPLEX!! A MASSIVE ONE!!
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING ELSE.
GIVME A BREAK!! THIS IS AN UNDERGROUND CAVERN.
HOW CAN THERE BE AN APARTMENT COMPLEX HERE?


SINCE WE'VE LANDED, SHOULDN'T WE INSPECT THAT COMPLEX?
...IT'S STRANGELY QUIET.
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE ANYONE LIVES HERE...
IT'S JUST AN APARTMENT COMPLEX.
THERE ISN'T THE SIGN OF A CHILD.
THIS ONE TOO...AND THERE'S AN ODD STENCH OF MOLD...
THEY'RE ALL VACANT. NO ONE IS HERE.
I WONDER IF THE DOOR IS LOCKED...
I'LL TRY OVER THERE.
EXCUSE ME! I'M AMAMORI FROM THE MOUNT TSUKUBA OBSERVATORY...


IT'S MARCH 1999 NOW...SO THAT'S PRETTY OLD...
DO YOU SEE, HASHIME? THIS IS AN APARTMENT FROM ABOUT 1980.
WHAT IS IT?
.....
MY YOUTH... IS THERE ANY WAY I COULDN'T WEEP?
WHEN I WAS YOUNG...OUR FAMILY OF NINE BUMPED SHOULDERS IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...
.....!!
YOUNG MAN, COME WITH ME.
LET'S CHECK THE OTHER PLACES FOR SIGNS OF LIFE.
BUT IT'S MYSTERIOUS THAT THERE IS NO SIGN OF ANYONE LIVING HERE.
I'M HAVING A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

WH- WH- WH- WHO ARE YOU?
I AM THE ETERNAL MANAGER OF THIS APARTMENT COMPLEX...
THE ETERNAL MANAGER? ?
THIS LADY...IS OLD, BUT SHE LOOKS A WHOLE LOT LIKE YAYOI...!!
THERE ARE MANY NEWER ONES TO THE SOUTH...
THIS BLOCK IS IN THE STYLE OF TWENTY YEARS AGO, SO IT IS OLDER...


16
APARTMENTS IN THE STYLE OF 1999?
LOOK! THAT ONE OVER THERE IS BUILT IN THE CONTEMPORARY 1999 STYLE...
WE STARTED LONG AGO, AND WE CONTINUE TO MANAGE IT.
WE DID...
WHO MADE THAT... AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE??
THERE ISN'T A SOUL LIVING HERE, BUT YOU BUILT APARTMENT COMPLEXES ANYWAY...
BUT, ISN'T THIS A GIANT CAVERN UNDER GROUND?
NOT YET. HASHIME ISN'T ANYWHERE TO BE FOUND. HEYYY!
PROFESSOR!! THEY'VE MANAGED TO GET THE CAPSULE OUT OF THE POND. WE CAN GO BACK UP!!
I DO NOT KNOW WHEN IT WILL BE, BUT THAT'S WHY WE BUILT THEM...
ANY DAY...THE TIME WILL COME WHEN THEY ARE NECESSARY. WITHOUT THEM, THE DAY WOULD COME WHEN WE WOULD BE VERY SORRY.


?
PROFESSOR! HASHIME IS OVER THERE!!
17
18
HE IS...HOW DID HE...HEY! ISN'T THAT MISS YAYOI!?
!!
LOOK CAREFULLY. THAT IS NO APARTMENT COMPLEX.

HMM...
GIVE THIS TO PROFESSOR AMAMORI...
THE MILLENNIAL THIEVES ARE HERE TOO?
I'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU IN MORE DETAIL, BUT IT WILL BE TROUBLESOME IF THE MILLENNIAL THIEVES COME THROUGH THE TUBE. I'LL HAVE THE SAUCER TAKE YOU BACK TO THE CAPSULE. THEN YOU SHOULD RETURN HOME.
59
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? I SUPPOSE THERE COULD BE A WAR OR SOMETHING...
SURVIVE?
YOUNG MAN, DO NOT FORGET WHAT I HAVE SHOWN YOU!! PLEASE WORK HARD SO THAT YOU MAY SURVIVE.
WERE IS YAYOI NOW? AT LEAST TELL ME THE ADDRESS...
WAIT A MINUTE!!
AS FOR YAYOI...THE REAL YAYOI... YOU WILL SEE HER SOON.
HEY! HASHIME! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
? ? WEIRD. SHE VANISHED...
YAYOI?

UNCLE, SHE ALSO GAVE ME SOMETHING TO GIVE TO YOU. WHEN YOU SEE IT, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND.
TAKE US BACK? THE WOMAN SAID THAT?
YEAH. SHE SAID IT'S GONNA TAKE US BACK TO THE CAPSULE.
HEY, NUMBSKULL! THE SAUCER IS STARTING TO MOVE. WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WERE LEFT BEHIND!?
SHE SAID IT WOULD BE BAD IF THE MILLENNIAL THIEVES SHOWED UP.
WAH! IT TOOK OFF.
SHE SAID SHE IS THE ETERNAL MANAGER... AND THEN SHE SUDDENLY VANISHED...
WHO WAS SHE?
THERE'S SOMETHING ON OUR TAIL. WHAT IS IT!?
IT LOOKS LIKE A FIGHTER PLANE!! MAYBE THE MILLENNIAL THIEVES?